



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. Box 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Colgate-Palmolive Company
909 River Road
P.O. Box 1343
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1343

COPY MAILED

JUL 27 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Chopra et al.	:	
Application No. 10/620,167	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: July 15, 2003	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. IR6685-00	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(6), filed January 24, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional application set forth in the concurrently filed amendment. The delay in treating this petition is regretted.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT.**

The petition is accompanied by an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to the prior-filed provisional application. While a reference to the prior-filed provisional application was not included in an Application Data Sheet (ADS) or in the first sentence of the specification following the title as required by the rules, a reference, nevertheless, was made in the combined declaration and power of attorney filed with the application.

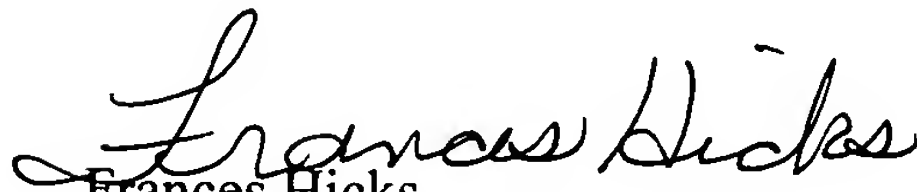
Where a claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(6) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(5)(ii). On the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the prior-filed application set forth in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(6).¹ In the present case, the Office noted the claim for priority to the prior-filed provisional application in the transmittal letter filed with the application, as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

¹ Note MPEP 201.11 (III)(D) and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, the \$1370.00 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be refunded to petitioner's deposit account in due course.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Derek L. Woods at (571) 272-3232. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1616 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to the prior-filed application.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Lead Paralegal
Office of Petitions